

## AGENDA

### GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA GRAND CONVOCATION

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025 - 8:00 A.M.

1. APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES
2. PRELIMINARY CREDENTIALS REPORT
3. OPENING OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA - M.:E.:G.:H.:P.:
4. RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
5. ROLL CALL OF GRAND OFFICERS
6. ROLL CALL OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS
7. ROLL CALL OF MURROW AWARD RECIPIENTS
8. ROLL CALL AND RECEPTION OF PAST GRAND HIGH PRIESTS
9. ROLL CALL OF CONSTITUENT CHAPTERS
10. MOTION TO APPROVE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 136TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION – Jon Greene
11. ADDRESS OF THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST
12. REPORT OF THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND TREASURER
13. REPORT OF THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND SECRETARY
14. REPORT FROM THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE
15. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
16. FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT
17. MOTION TO ACCEPT M.:E.:G.:H.:P.: ADDRESS AND ALL COMMITTEE REPORTS – Jon Greene
18. APPOINT TELLERS COMMITTEE
19. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND REFERRALS
  - a. RESOLUTION NO. 1
  - b. RESOLUTION NO. 2A & 2B
  - c. RESOLUTION NO. 3A & 3B
20. ELECTION OF GRAND OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026
21. REMARKS BY THE M.:E.:G.:H.:P.: ELECT
22. COMPLETION OF ANY UNFINISHED BUSINESS (AWARDS): M.:E.:G.:H.:P.:
23. REMARKS FROM VISITING DIGNITARIES
24. CLOSING - M.:E.:G.:H.:P.:

END OF 2025 GRAND SESSION

OPEN INSTALLATION OF GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS 2025-2026 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.

INSTALLING OFFICER .....M.:E.:C.: BRADLEY S. RICKELMAN, P.:G.:H.:P.:

INSTALLING MARSHALL .....M.:E.:C.: JAMES R. TAYLOR, JR., P.:G.:H.:P.:

INSTALLING CHAPLAIN .....M.:E.:C.: MATHEW A. TURNER, P.:G.:H.:P.:

INSTALLING RECORDER .....R.:E.:C.: JON B. GREENE, GRAND SECRETARY

**Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma**  
**Grand Officers for the 2024-2025 Capitular Year**

Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103]	Beth	Most Excellent Grand High Priest
Matthew D. McGee [25]		Right Excellent Grand King
Michael S. Wright [11, 103]	Kim	Right Excellent Grand Scribe
Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104]	Dana	Right Excellent Grand Treasurer
P. . G. . H. . P. .		
Elwood M. "Ike" Isaacs [52, 55]	P. . G. . H. . P. .	Right Excellent Grand Treasurer Emeritus
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]	Renee	Right Excellent Grand Secretary
Gary A. Davis [52]	H. . P. . G. . H. . P. .	Right Excellent Grand Secretary Emeritus
		Right Excellent Grand Captain of the Host
Justin M. McGee [25]		Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner
Charles L. Cook [11]	Molly	Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain
Roberto "Tony" A. DeLeon, Jr. [24]		Excellent Grand Master of the 3rd Veil
Robert W. "Bob" McLeod [52, 3]	Pam	Excellent Grand Master of the 2nd Veil
Seth J. Dawson [24]		Excellent Grand Master of the 1st Veil
Jason R. Smith [44, 103]		Excellent Grand Sentinel
Truman "Lavern" L. Ragain, Jr. [44]		Excellent Grand Chaplain

**Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma**  
**District Deputy Grand High Priests and Districts**  
**For The 2024 – 2025 Capitular Year**

DISTRICT 1	Matthew N. Harden [3]	Indian Chapter No. 1 Muskogee Chapter No. 3
DISTRICT 2	Bryan C. Shackelford [6]	Guthrie Chapter No. 6 Cyrus Chapter No. 7
DISTRICT 3	William D. Hardin [11]	Ardmore Chapter No. 11 Texoma Chapter No. 28
DISTRICT 4	Justin M. McGee [25]	Stillwater Chapter No. 14 Olivet Chapter No. 24
DISTRICT 5	Steven E. Cox [3, 103]	Norman Chapter No. 24 Capitol Hill Chapter No. 101 Veritas Chapter No. 103
DISTRICT 6	James Oates III [44]	Lawton Chapter No. 44 Altus Chapter No. 60
DISTRICT 7	David D. Shore [72]	Elk City Chapter No. 50 Woodward Chapter No. 72
DISTRICT 8	Michael D. Maxey [52]	Tulsa Chapter No. 52 Bartlesville Chapter No. 55 James E. Smyrl Chapter No. 104

**GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA  
STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES FOR 2024-2025 CAPITULAR YEAR  
STANDING COMMITTEES**

[Established by Constitution, Law, or Resolution]

**JURISPRUDENCE**

Mathew Turner [7, 24] – Chairman  
William J. Cloud [101] - Secretary  
All Past Grand High Priests

**CREDENTIALS**

Bradley S. Rickelman [14]  
James Oates III [44]  
John M. Espen, III [101]  
James R. Taylor, Sr. [52, 104]  
Jon B. Greene [52, 104] - ex officio

**FINANCE**

Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103] - Chairman  
Matthew D. McGee [83]  
Mark K. McFadden [3]  
R.: E.: Grand Scribe ex officio

**INVESTMENTS**

2023-26 [RAM] John L. Logan [6, 72]  
2022-25 [CM] Charles Stuckey [22, 41]  
2024-27 [KT] Mathew A. Turner [7, 24]

**CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS**

Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104] - Chairman  
John L. Logan [6, 72]  
Bradley S. Rickelman [14]  
Grand Captain of the Host ex officio -

**TRIENNIAL**

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7] - Chairman  
John R. Christopher [6]  
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]

**FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7]

**YORK RITE COORDINATION**

Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103]  
Matthew D. McGee [83]  
Michael S. Wright [11, 103]  
R.:E.: Grand Captain of the Host

**MEMBERSHIP**

Mark K. McFadden [3] - Chairman  
Central - David A. Tennison [6]  
N. Central - Bradley S. Rickelman [14]  
Northeast – Jim L. Parham [52]  
Northwest - John L. Logan [6, 72]  
S. Central - Brian M. Ragain [44]  
Southeast - John E. King, Jr. [1, 28]  
Southwest - James Oates III [44]

**CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK**

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7] - Chairman  
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]  
James R. Taylor, Jr. [52, 104]

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON PLACE**

Bradley S. Rickelman [14] - Chairman  
Brian A. Buswell [7]  
Robert W. McLeod [3, 52]  
Ivan M. DeTevis [14, 52]  
M.:E.: Grand High Priest ex officio

**EDUCATION**

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7] -  
Chairman  
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]  
Robert G. Davis [14]

**GRAND MASTER'S FESTIVAL**

Matthew D. McGee [83] - RAM  
Brian M. Ragain [44] - CM  
John T. Turner [14] - KT

**NECROLOGY**

Lavern Ragain, Jr. [44]

**ASSISTANT CUSTODIANS OF  
THE WORK**

Brian M. Ragain [44]  
Michael S. Wright [11, 103]  
John L. Logan [6, 72]  
Blaine C. McKnight [1, 28]  
Robert R. Rolseth [52, 104]

**CLARENCE BRAIN CHAPTER  
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103]  
Matthew D. McGee [83]  
Michael S. Wright [11, 103]  
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

**BRONZE MEDAL –  
MERITORIOUS SERVICE  
AWARD**

Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103]  
Matthew D. McGee [83]  
Michael S. Wright [11, 103]  
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

**DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE**

Jon B. Greene [52, 104] - Chairman  
Robert W. McLeod [52]  
John R. Christopher [6]

**MASONIC CHARITY  
FOUNDATION**

2024-27 [RAM] David A. Ray [24]  
2022-25 [CM] Johnny D. Allford [1]  
2023-26 [KT] Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]

**SOUTH-CENTRAL CONFERENCE**

Mathew Turner [7, 24] - Chairman  
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]  
James R. Taylor, Jr. [52, 104]

**REGIONAL DEGREE FESTIVALS**

Michael S. Wright [11, 103]- Chairman  
Central - James D. Nobles [7]  
N. Central – Robert L. Sprott [14]  
Northeast - George W. Ratliff [52, 104]  
Northwest - Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]  
S. Central - Michael S. Wright [11, 103]  
Southeast - John E. King, Jr. [1, 28]  
Southwest - James Oates III [44]

**MURROW AWARD**

Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103]  
Matthew D. McGee [83]  
Michael S. Wright [11, 103]  
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

**DEMOLAY COMMITTEE**

Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104] - Chairman  
Michael L. Branson [14]  
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]  
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]  
Bo Ross [24]  
D. Ridge Smith [101]

**ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE**

Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104] - Chairman  
William J. "Jim" Cloud [101]  
Donnie G. Higginbotham [1, 28]

**APPRECIATION**

John R. Cooper, Jr. [3]

**OTHER****PAST GRAND HIGH PRIESTS ASSOCIATION**

James R. Taylor, Jr. [52, 104] - President  
Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104] - 1st V.P.  
John R. Christopher [6] - 2nd V.P.  
Charles L. Stuckey [25] - Treas.  
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104] - Sec

**ADDRESS OF MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST, FRANK J. BELLUARDO, JR.**  
**136<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Convocation**

Companions welcome to the 136<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma at the Embassy Suites Northwest in Oklahoma City. I want to thank all of you for your support and attendance at this and past Grand York Rite Secessions.

To our out-of-state distinguished guests, thank you for attending the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma. We hope that you enjoy your stay here with us. If there is anything that we can do to assist and make your stay here in Oklahoma City more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to ask me or any of my Grand Chapter officers.

At the 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma, I was elected to serve as your Grand King for the 2024-2025 Capitular year. Due to the resignation of the Grand High Priest on October 15, 2024, I was notified that the elected line would be advanced, and I would now serve in the station of Grand High Priest.

MEC Matt Turner, PGHP, called for a special secession for me to be installed as Grand High Priest. This secession was held at the Edmond Masonic Lodge in Edmond, Oklahoma, on October 19, 2024.

I would like to start out by thanking my wife, Beth, for all her support through this unexpected year of transition. I know that it has been challenging for her, but she has stood beside me the whole way, and I am a much better man for it.

To the Grand Chapter Officers, DDGHP's, and Grand Chapter Committees, I must extend a note of great thanks to all of you for your willingness to hold your stations and places and serve with me during this year. I also want to recognize REC Matt McGee & REC Michael Wright for stepping up and pulling double duty due to the vacancy of the Grand Captain of the Host and also to REC Jon Greene, you have been a blessing to me this year with all the assistance and help you have provided for me. I can not thank all of you enough. To MEC Jim Taylor, Jr. and MEC Matt Turner, thank you for being there for all my unexpected phone calls when questions and thoughts would come to mind.

I cannot forget to thank all the Past Grand High Priests of our Grand Chapter. We owe you a debt of gratitude for all your hard work to help promote, support, and move forward Capitular Masonry here in Oklahoma.

During my tenure as both Grand King and Grand High Priest, I had the honor of undertaking visitations both out of state and internationally. These experiences provided me with cherished memories spent with esteemed Brothers and dear friends alike. Unfortunately, these positive moments were tempered by the unexpected passing of my very dear friend, Brother, and Excellent Companion, Denis Repka of Romania, on July 25, 2024.

**Necrology:**

It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the loss of 43 York Rite Masons this year. With much sadness 2 of these Companions were Past Grand Masters:

M.:W.: E. Keith Liles, PGM

M.:W.: Lanny R. Sander, PGM

**Dispensation, Decisions & other Actions:**

On October 18, 2024, I issued a dispensation to Bartlesville Chapter No.55, allowing them to change the date of their officer elections to November 19, 2024.

On November 11, 2024, I installed REC Michael Wright as Grand Scribe at the Ardmore Chapter Stated Convocation.

On November 12, 2024, I issued a dispensation to Tulsa Chapter No.52, allowing them to change the date of their officer elections to November 18, 2024.

On November 18, 2024, I issued a dispensation to Indian Chapter No.1, allowing them to change the date of their officer elections to November 25, 2024.

On November 18, 2024, I issued a dispensation to Muskogee Chapter No.3, allowing them to change their officer elections to November 26, 2024.

On December 6, 2024, I approved changes to the Bylaws of Indian Chapter No.1

On December 9, 2024, I approved changes to the Bylaws of Muskogee Chapter No.3

On December 9, 2024, I accepted the appointment as Grand Chapter Representative from Oklahoma to Romania extended to me by MEC Petre Buneci, Grand High Priest of Romania.

On January 23, 2025, I issued a dispensation for REC Matthew McGee to close Tulsa Chapter in Ample Form at the Northeast Chapter Festival in Tulsa on February 8, 2025

On January 23, 2025, I issued a dispensation for REC Michael Wright to close Ardmore Chapter in Ample Form for their Regional Chapter Festival on February 1, 2025

On February 3, 2025, I approved changes to the Bylaws of Stillwater Chapter No. 14.

On February 4, 2025, I appointed MEC Petre Buneci, Grand High Priest of Romania, as a Grand Representative from Romania to Oklahoma.

On February 8, 2025, I approved MEC James R. Taylor, Jr., PGHP, to Communicate the Mark Master & PM Degrees on Brother Andy Peck at the Northeast Chapter Festival held in Tulsa.

On February 19, 2025, I issued a dispensation to Bartlesville Chapter No.55 for a re-election of the Captain of the Host due to a resignation of office.

On March 26, 2025, 50-Year Chapter Presentation to Companion Donald W. Jones of Lawton Chapter 44.

On March 26, 2025, 50-Year Chapter Presentation to Companion David F. Hiebert of Tulsa Chapter No.52

### **Official Visits to Constitute Chapters and Other Events:**

I made the following official visits to the constitute Chapters and other special events during my time as Grand High Priest. I also visited (5) other Chapters and attended several other events prior as Grand King. At these visits, I was both honored and afforded a seat in the East. It was a great pleasure of mine to spend time and speak with the companions of each of the Chapters that I visited. I also had the special opportunity to install the Chapter Officers at 3 of my official visits.

Bartlesville Chapter No.55 – November 19, 2024

Veritas Chapter No.103 – December 14, 2024 – Installed their 2025 officers

Bartlesville Chapter No.55 – December 17, 2024 – Installed their 2025 officers

Stillwater Chapter No.14 – December 18, 2024 – Installed their 2025 officers

Woodward Chapter No. 72 – February 11, 2025 – was cancelled due to weather

Guthrie Chapter No.6 – February 13, 2025

Elk City Chapter No.50 – March 18, 2025

Guthrie Scottish Rite Fall Reunion – November 2, 2024

Guthrie Scottish Rite Spring Reunion – April 4, 2025

Tulsa Scottish Rite Spring Reunion – March 22, 2025

McAlester Scottish Rite Spring Reunion – April 12, 2025

K.Y.C.H. Conclave – April 24, 2025

York Rite College at Masonic Day – October 19, 2024 – Edmond

Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Grand Secessions – November 8-9, 2024 in Guthrie

DeMolay Winterfest Tulsa 2025 – January 26, 2025

K.Y.C.H. Conclave as Grand King – May 18, 2024 in Stillwater

Grand Chapter of Romania as Grand King – June 15, 2024 in Bucharest, Romania

Grand Masters Field Day as Grand King – July 27, 2024 in Norman

Colorado Grand Chapter Secession as Grand King – September 6-7, 2024 in Lakewood, CO.

Southcentral York Rite Conference as Grand King – September 20, 2024 in Tulsa

### **State of the Royal Arch Masonry**

We have moved past the COVID years and are now resuming regular meetings for the Chapters in Oklahoma. As we re-establish routines, progress is being made. Some consolidations have occurred, resulting in stronger Chapters with improved attendance. Many Chapters now feature discussions among companions about learning the ritual work. Several Chapters are considering the Mark Master Degree as a form of Chapter education with plans to eventually confer the degree.

Like all organizations, we face challenges such as the passing of Companions or those who are SNPD. In our efforts to bring new companions into our Chapters, it is important to also reach out to current companions who are not attending our stated convocations. Understanding their reasons for non-attendance is crucial, and officers and members should make efforts to reconnect. Sometimes, a single phone call can result in a missing companion returning to their attendance once again.

For the 2025-2026 year, my plan is for DDGHPs to collaborate with dais officers and secretaries of the constituent chapters to initiate an outreach program with a phone call list targeting companions who have not attended a Chapter Convocation in 2 years or more. The goal of this program is to significantly increase attendance at Chapter's stated convocations.

In conclusion, our commitment to strengthening the Royal Arch Masonry remains steadfast as we look towards the future. For 2025-2026, I am also planning the following programs: having Chapters work with our Custodians of the Work to hold District Schools of Instructions, not only to assist with education but to try to draw back some of our missing membership. I have also created a Royal Arch Research Assistance Oklahoma supporter jewel. The proceeds from supporting our philanthropy will be added to the Oklahoma State annual donation. Together, through dedication and outreach, we can create a thriving fraternity that honors the traditions and values we cherish. Let us take these initiatives to heart and work collaboratively to ensure a prosperous year ahead. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Submitted with Regards & Fraternity,

Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [103]

Grand High Priest 2024-2025

**REPORT OF THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND TREASURER, KENTON M. ISRAEL**

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma

For the period ending December 31, 2024

These Accounts are all held at Morgan Stanley

Grand Chapter Investment Account		
General Fund		
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024		\$271,652.96
Deposits		0.00
Withdrawals		-4,696.44
Dividend/Interest Earned		9,422.17
Appreciation		<u>10,752.89</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2024		\$287,131.58

Grand Chapter Investment Account		
Perpetual Membership		
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024		\$163,072.64
Deposits		2,017.50
Withdrawals		-4,284.83
Dividend/Interest Earned		5,481.33
Appreciation		<u>3,068.66</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2024		\$169,355.30

Grand Chapter Investment Account		
Joint Account-Membership Development		
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024		\$73,217.48
Deposits		152.96
Withdrawals		-152.96
Dividend/Interest Earned		2,549.22
Appreciation		<u>2,803.53</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2024		\$78,570.23

Grand Total of Grand Chapter Investments		1/1/2024	12/31/2024		
	General Fund	\$271,652.96	\$287,131.58	\$15,478.62	5.70%
	Perpetual Membership	\$163,072.64	\$169,355.30	\$6,282.66	3.85%
	Joint Account-Membership Development	\$73,217.48	\$78,570.23	\$5,352.75	7.31%
Grand Total of Grand Chapter Investments		\$507,943.08	\$535,057.11		



As of 12/31/2024	Total Perpetual Members Grand Chapter, RAM of Oklahoma													
3/28/2025 8:14	New Members in 2024	Total Members	Dead	Living	Total Investment	Total Dues	Div/Interest Distributed	Total	To Grand Chapter Deceased	To Grand Chapter Living	Total to Grand Chapter	To Local Chapter Deceased	To Local Chapter Living	Total to Local Chapter
Name														
Ardmore, No. 11		26	14	12	5,884.00	384.60	196.53		32.68	47.65	80.33	61.14	55.06	116.20
Bartlesville, No. 55		42	32	10	5,116.50	341.10	170.89		54.61	24.62	79.23	68.29	23.37	91.66
Cyrus (OKC), No. 7		200	109	91	35,616.75	2,279.45	1,189.60		222.50	278.15	500.66	385.91	303.03	688.94
Elk City No. 50		45	20	25	6,540.41	429.00	218.45		34.22	72.39	106.61	47.96	63.88	111.84
Guthrie, No. 6		33	14	19	5,961.00	397.00	199.10		28.56	68.56	97.12	40.08	61.90	101.98
Indian (McAlester), No. 1		63	31	32	8,236.50	548.90	275.10		57.68	109.69	167.38	56.25	51.48	107.72
James E. Smyrl, No. 104	1	13	1	12	7,110.00	470.00	218.94		0.00	66.12	66.12	0.00	152.82	152.82
Lawton, No. 44		91	51	40	17,670.00	1,168.00	590.18		102.20	148.90	251.10	186.87	152.20	339.08
Muskogee, No. 3		84	42	42	14,355.00	827.00	449.40		108.22	166.84	275.06	89.68	84.66	174.34
Norman, No. 24		68	48	20	10,130.91	673.15	338.37		84.09	53.78	137.87	139.22	61.28	200.50
Olivet (Ponca City), No. 25		39	14	25	5,184.00	343.40	173.15		24.05	82.35	106.40	25.95	40.79	66.75
Stillwater, No. 14	2	48	27	21	8,222.70	548.18	254.60		46.59	67.38	113.98	79.66	60.96	140.62
Texhoma, No.		1	0	1	330.00	22.00	11.02			5.64	5.64		5.39	5.39
Tulsa, No. 52	1	124	51	124	31,858.00	2,116.00	1,048.03		92.32	257.66	349.98	213.89	484.16	698.04
Woodward, No. 72		44	27	17	4,016.50	260.50	134.15		43.82	48.27	92.09	26.29	15.78	42.07
15	4	921	481	491	166,232.27	10,808.28	5,467.49		931.55	1,498.00	2,429.55	1,421.18	1,616.76	3,037.94
As of 31 December 2024			52.2%	53.3%			3.29%				1.46%		3,037.94	1.83%
Percentage used in making calculations:					3.34%									5,467.49
Interest Earned in 2024		\$5,481.33						Div/Int earned in 2023	\$5,481.33	Pd to Grand Chapter	\$2,429.55			
								Distributed in 2025	\$5,467.49	Pd to Chapters	\$3,037.94			
								Retained in Fund	\$13.84	Total paid out	\$5,467.49			

The stock market in 2024 was characterized by a mix of volatility and cautious optimism, as we navigated economic challenges, geopolitical risks, and shifting monetary policies. With inflation showing signs of moderation in some regions, central banks, particularly the Federal Reserve, took a more dovish approach. Interest rates remained elevated for much of the year, though some easing occurred toward the end of the period as inflation pressures eased.

Investor sentiment in 2024 was influenced by global economic conditions. In the U.S., the market saw moderate growth, with defensive sectors like utilities, healthcare, and consumer staples outperforming more cyclical or speculative industries. These sectors offered stability and solid dividend yields. High-growth sectors like technology and clean energy experienced significant volatility, as investors grappled with concerns about valuations and regulatory uncertainty.

International markets also faced challenges, with Europe struggling under economic stagnation and geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe. However, emerging markets showed potential, particularly in regions focused on technology, green energy, and infrastructure development, though risks remained due to political instability and currency fluctuations.

In 2025, through Q1, our accounts are up 1.41% while the market is down 3.91% in that same time. I believe we have the right conservative portfolio. In 2024, we also received more dividends and interest than in years past. Morgan Stanley has been good to work with, and I appreciate Jon Greene and his work when he receives all the money that goes into these different accounts.

#### **Perpetual Membership Account Information**

921 Total Members at 12/31/2024

4 New Members in 2024

440 Living Members

481 Deceased Members

Interest/Dividends earned in 2024: \$5,481.33

Div/Int distributed to Grand Chapter in 2025 for Div/Int earned in 2024: \$2,429.55

Div/Int distributed to Local Chapters in 2025 for Div/Int earned in 2024: \$3,037.94

Last year, for comparison.

Interest/Dividends earned in 2023: \$4,568.17

Div/Int distributed to Grand Chapter in 2024 for Div/Int earned in 2023: \$1,989.37

Div/Int distributed to Local Chapters in 2024 for Div/Int earned in 2023: \$2,563.77

We added 4 new members to our Perpetual Members list in 2024. We had much larger dividends and interest earned in 2024, that were able to be paid out in 2025. This is very good news.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as Grand Treasurer this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104]

## REPORT OF THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND SECRETARY, JON B. GREENE

### Annual Statistical Report - Start: 1/1/2024 End: 12/31/2024 General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry Grand Chapter of Oklahoma Located at Tulsa, OK

Total Working Chapters = 17

The following is a recapitulation of membership activity during the specified reporting period.

Total number members on last return =		<u>1,248</u>
Total number EXALTED =	<u>66</u>	
Total number AFFILIATED =	<u>157</u>	
Total number REINSTATED =	<u>5</u>	
Total number ADD ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>	
Total Gain (+)	<u>228</u>	
Total number DEMITTED =	<u>165</u>	
Total number SUSPENDED =	<u>48</u>	
Total number DECEASED =	<u>38</u>	
Total number EXPELLED =	<u>0</u>	
Total number DELETE ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>	
Total Loss (-)	<u>251</u>	
Net Gain (Net Loss) =		<u>(23)</u>
Total number of members (including Dual and Plural)		<u>= 1,225</u>

### Annual Statistical Report - Start: 1/1/2023 End: 12/31/2023 General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry Grand Chapter of Oklahoma Located at Tulsa, OK

Total Working Chapters = 19

The following is a recapitulation of membership activity during the specified reporting period.

Total number members on last return =		<u>1,250</u>
Total number EXALTED =	<u>67</u>	
Total number AFFILIATED =	<u>7</u>	
Total number REINSTATED =	<u>5</u>	
Total number ADD ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>	
Total Gain (+)	<u>79</u>	
Total number DEMITTED =	<u>8</u>	
Total number SUSPENDED =	<u>34</u>	
Total number DECEASED =	<u>39</u>	
Total number EXPELLED =	<u>0</u>	
Total number DELETE ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>	
Total Loss (-)	<u>81</u>	
Net Gain (Net Loss) =		<u>(2)</u>
Total number of members (including Dual and Plural)		<u>= 1,248</u>

## GRAND CHAPTER RETURNS FOR 2024

No.	Name	2023 Members End of Year	Exalted	Affiliated	Reinstated	ADD Adjustment	Demitted	Suspended	Deceased	Expelled/Withdrew	DELETE Adjusted	Net Gain or (Loss)	2024 Members End of Year	Perpetual Members	Unable to Pay	G. G. Chapter Life Members
1	Indian	90	1	1	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	(5)	85	30	0	49
3	Muskogee	125	5	1	1	0	5	15	3	0	0	(16)	109	38	0	70
6	Guthrie	66	5	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	67	20	0	29
7	Cyrus	120	9	102	1	0	3	2	2	0	0	105	225	90	4	141
11	Ardmore	56	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	59	12	0	22
14	Stillwater	50	4	3	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	2	52	20	0	32
24	Norman	89	7	1	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	2	91	21	0	41
25	Olivet	50	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	(3)	47	26	0	33
28	Texoma	26	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	(2)	24	1	0	1
44	Lawton	101	4	41	1	0	1	13	4	0	0	28	129	40	0	68
50	Elk City	50	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	50	26	0	50
52	Tulsa	172	6	2	0	0	5	5	6	0	0	(8)	164	74	6	104
55	Bartlesville	41	6	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	3	44	10	0	44
60	Altus	43	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	0	0	(43)	0	0	0	
72	Woodward	32	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	33	18	0	25
101	Capitol Hill	96	7	0	2	0	103	0	2	0	0	(96)	0	0	0	0
103	Veritas	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
104	James E. Smyrl	29	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	34	12	0	13
	Totals	1248	65	154	5	0	164	46	37	0	0	(23)	1225	438	10	722

No.2	Name2	Dues	Fees	DeMolay	Grand Chapter Per Capita	General Grand Chapter Per Capita	RARA	Net Amount	Perpetual Member Per Capita Return	TOTAL
1	Indian	\$15.00	\$50.00	\$13.75	\$550.00	\$108.00	\$55.00	\$726.75	\$167.38	\$894.13
3	Muskogee	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$17.75	\$710.00	\$117.00	\$71.00	\$915.75	\$275.06	\$1,190.81
6	Guthrie	\$22.00	\$50.00	\$11.75	\$470.00	\$114.00	\$47.00	\$642.75	\$97.12	\$739.87
7	Cyrus	\$20.00	\$55.00	\$32.75	\$1,310.00	\$240.00	\$131.00	\$1,713.75	\$500.66	\$2,214.41
11	Ardmore	\$24.00	\$55.00	\$11.75	\$470.00	\$111.00	\$47.00	\$639.75	\$80.33	\$720.08
14	Stillwater	\$20.00	\$65.00	\$8.00	\$320.00	\$60.00	\$32.00	\$420.00	\$113.98	\$533.98
24	Norman	\$29.00	\$60.00	\$17.50	\$700.00	\$150.00	\$70.00	\$937.50	\$137.87	\$1,075.37
25	Olivet	\$14.00	\$35.00	\$5.25	\$210.00	\$42.00	\$21.00	\$278.25	\$106.40	\$384.65
28	Texoma	\$26.00	\$50.00	\$5.75	\$230.00	\$69.00	\$23.00	\$327.75	\$5.64	\$333.39
44	Lawton	\$22.50	\$50.00	\$22.25	\$890.00	\$183.00	\$89.00	\$1,184.25	\$251.10	\$1,435.35
50	Elk City	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$6.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$24.00	\$270.00	\$106.61	\$376.61
52	Tulsa	\$35.00	\$50.00	\$21.00	\$840.00	\$162.00	\$84.00	\$1,107.00	\$349.98	\$1,456.98
55	Bartlesville	\$16.50	\$50.00	\$8.50	\$340.00	\$0.00	\$34.00	\$382.50	\$79.23	\$461.73
60	Altus	\$20.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
72	Woodward	\$25.50	\$50.00	\$3.75	\$150.00	\$24.00	\$15.00	\$192.75	\$92.09	\$284.84
101	Capitol Hill	\$19.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
103	Veritas	\$50.00	\$200.00	\$3.00	\$120.00	\$36.00	\$12.00	\$171.00	\$0.00	\$171.00
104	James E. Smyrl	\$40.00	\$75.00	\$5.50	\$220.00	\$63.00	\$22.00	\$310.50	\$66.12	\$376.62
	Totals			\$194.25	\$7,770.00	\$1,479.00	\$777.00	\$10,220.25	\$2,429.57	\$12,649.82

## 2024 BUDGET - ACTUAL VS BUDGET

	Jan - Dec 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4000 · ANNUAL RETURNS			
4010 · Oklahoma Per Capita	7,790.00	7,790.00	0.00
4020 · G. G. Chapter Per Capita	1,572.00	1,569.00	3.00
4030 · RARA Donation	779.00	779.00	0.00
4050 · DeMolay Donation	194.75	194.75	0.00
Total 4000 · ANNUAL RETURNS	10,335.75	10,332.75	3.00
4100 · Interest/Investmen Inc.			
4110 · PEM Dividend from investment	1,989.37	1,989.37	0.00
4120 · Interest Income	3,500.00	7,640.43	-4,140.43
Total 4100 · Interest/Investmen Inc.	5,489.37	9,629.80	-4,140.43
4200 · FEES			
4210 · Degree Fees	920.00	800.00	120.00
4220 · Dispensation Fee	30.00	10.00	20.00
4230 · Reinstatement Fee	40.00	10.00	30.00
4240 · Festival Meal Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
4245 · Petition Fees Collected @ GMF	2,150.00	3,000.00	-850.00
Total 4200 · FEES	3,140.00	3,820.00	-680.00
4300 · RESALE			
4310 · Ritual Resale	120.00	200.00	-80.00
Total 4300 · RESALE	120.00	200.00	-80.00
4600 · MISC INCOME			
4610 · MISC Income	0.00	600.00	-600.00
Total 4600 · MISC INCOME	0.00	600.00	-600.00
Total Income	19,085.12	24,582.55	-5,497.43
Expense			
5000 · STAFF			
5010 · Grand Secretary's Salary	5,250.00	5,250.00	0.00
5020 · Payroll Taxes	449.16	450.00	-0.84
5030 · Grand Treasurer's Allowance	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 5000 · STAFF	5,699.16	5,900.00	-200.84
5100 · ASSESSMENTS			
5110 · Per Capita - G.G. Chapter	1,530.00	1,569.00	-39.00
5120 · RARA Donation	779.00	779.00	0.00
5130 · DeMolay Donation	300.00	300.00	0.00
5140 · General Grand Chapter Magazine	3,768.77	3,070.00	698.77
5150 · Per Capita Refunds	125.00		
Total 5100 · ASSESSMENTS	6,502.77	5,718.00	784.77
6000 · CONFERENCE/TRAVEL			
6010-23 · M.E.G.H.P. Travel-Cloud	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00
6010-24 · M.E.G.H.P. Travel-McKnight/Bell	347.22	1,250.00	-902.78
6020 · Grand High Priest Grand Session	0.00	250.00	-250.00
6030 · Grand Sessions Host Expense	151.44	200.00	-48.56
6040 · Grand Sessions-GG Chapter OV	441.69	1,140.00	-698.31
6050 · Grand Sessions-Awards	254.36	200.00	54.36
6060 · Past Grand High Priest Jewel	-50.00		
6080 · Triennial			
6080-24 · Triennial-2024	0.00	935.25	-935.25
Total 6080 · Triennial	0.00	935.25	-935.25
6110 · Festival Meal Catering	121.71	150.00	-28.29
6111 · GM Festival Fee Reimburs	1,850.00	3,000.00	-1,150.00
Total 6000 · CONFERENCE/TRAVEL	4,366.42	8,375.25	-4,008.83

<b>7000 · OFFICE EXPENSE</b>			
7100 · Rent			
7130 · GM Festival Rent	100.00	100.00	0.00
Total 7100 · Rent	100.00	100.00	0.00
7200 · Telecommunications			
7210 · Phone and Internet	0.00	200.00	-200.00
7220 · Website	63.96	75.00	-11.04
Total 7200 · Telecommunications	63.96	275.00	-211.04
7300 · Office Supplies			
7310 · General Office Supplies	0.00	40.00	-40.00
7320 · Ink	0.00	60.00	-60.00
7330 · Computer Software			
7330.1 · QuickBooks	216.33		
7330 · Computer Software - Other	0.00	250.00	-250.00
Total 7330 · Computer Software	216.33	250.00	-33.67
7340 · Office Equipment Acquisition	0.00	0.00	0.00
7350 · MMS Subscription	510.99	494.55	16.44
Total 7300 · Office Supplies	727.32	844.55	-117.23
7400 · Printing and Reproduction			
7410 · Pre Print	0.00	75.00	-75.00
7420 · Proceedings	32.66	32.65	0.01
Total 7400 · Printing and Reproduction	32.66	107.65	-74.99
7500 · Postage and Delivery			
7510 · PO Box Rental	0.00	67.00	-67.00
7520 · Stamps	21.52	68.00	-46.48
Total 7500 · Postage and Delivery	21.52	135.00	-113.48
7600 · Insurance			
7610 · Bond Premium	0.00	250.00	-250.00
Total 7600 · Insurance	0.00	250.00	-250.00
Total 7000 · OFFICE EXPENSE	945.46	1,712.20	-766.74
<b>8000 · MISC</b>			
8020 · Regalia	1,032.50		
8000 · MISC - Other	0.00	250.00	-250.00
Total 8000 · MISC	1,032.50	250.00	782.50
<b>8500 · EDUCATION</b>			
8510 · Education Courses	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Total 8500 · EDUCATION	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Total Expense	18,546.31	22,105.45	-3,559.14
Net Ordinary Income	538.81	2,477.10	-1,938.29
Net Income	538.81	2,477.10	-1,938.29
<b>Membership Development</b>			
	<b>Jan - Dec 24</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$ Over Budget</b>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4550 · Membership Development			
4551 · Membership Development Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00
4552 · Membership Development-Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
4550 · Membership Development - Other	487.19	513.00	-25.81
Total 4550 · Membership Development	487.19	513.00	-25.81
Total Income	487.19	513.00	-25.81
Expense			
9000 · MEMBERSHIP			
9010 · Membership Promotion	385.01	305.00	80.01
9020 · DeMolay Sword	0.00	208.00	-208.00
9030 · GW Memorial (Dig Proceedings)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 9000 · MEMBERSHIP	385.01	513.00	-127.99
Total Expense	385.01	513.00	-127.99
Net Ordinary Income	102.18	0.00	102.18
Net Income	102.18	0.00	102.18

Please see the attached statement of income and expenses for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma. In addition, the Grand Treasurer's report depicts the investment holdings and performance for the year.

I've attached a copy of the 2023 and 2024 Annual Statistical Report to this report. Unfortunately, we had two chapters, Altus Chapter No. 60 and Capitol Hill Chapter No. 101, surrender their Charters this year. The Companions of Altus Chapter affiliated with Lawton Chapter No. 44, and the Companions of Capitol Hill Chapter affiliated with Cyrus Chapter No. 7.

We had a net loss of 23 Companions this year. Our suspensions were up by 14 compared to 34 in 2023. forty-four Companions last year. We Exalted sixty-seven new Companions compared to fifty-eight the previous year.

Respectfully submitted:  
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

## **RESOLUTION NO. 1**

TO THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA:

**WHEREAS:** December is one of the busiest months in Masonry, and

**WHEREAS:** Our members are all Master Masons, many of whom belong to more than one Lodge, and

**WHEREAS:** Many of our members are also members of one or more appendant bodies, and

**WHEREAS:** The scheduling of these various bodies' elections and installations leaves very little time for our members to hold elections and installations of their local Chapters, and

**WHEREAS:** Tulsa Chapter 52, Bartlesville Chapter 55, Texhoma Chapter 28, Indian Chapter 1, Stillwater Chapter 14, and Lawton Chapter 44 all meet on the third or fourth week of the month of December, thus causing the above-mentioned Chapters to potentially apply for and purchase a Dispensation to hold their Election of Officers out-of-time.

### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **ARTICLE 10, Chartered Chapters**

Section 1. Elections, Chapter Officers, and Members.

The officers of a Chapter shall be the High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer, Secretary, and Captain of the Host who shall be elected at the first Stated Convocation in December of each year.

#### **BE AMENDED TO READ:**

#### **ARTICLE 10, Chartered Chapters**

Section 1. Elections, Chapter Officers, and Members.

The officers of a Chapter shall be the High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer, Secretary, and Captain of the Host, who shall be elected at the first Stated Convocation in November of each year.

This change would make it much easier for our local Chapters to schedule and hold their elections and plan quality installation programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark K. McFadden [3]

Jon B. Greene [52, 104]



## **RESOLUTION NO. 2a**

TO THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA:

**WHEREAS:** modern technology allows for more cost-efficient communication. And

**WHEREAS:** the cost of printed materials has become substantial at a time of financial exigency for the Grand Chapter and more cost-effective means of distribution exist.

**WHEREAS:** Article 2, Section 4 subsection i, paragraph 2 requires the printing of materials that can be communicated by other means.

### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **ARTICLE 2, GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES**

Section 4. Grand Secretary: General Duties.

i. Proceedings.

2) The Grand Secretary shall distribute the annual printed proceedings as follows: one copy to the High Priest and one copy to the Secretary of each Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction; two copies to the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, International and two copies to each Grand Chapter with which this Grand Chapter is in fraternal correspondence; one copy to each officer of this Grand Chapter; one copy to each Past Grand High Priest; one copy to the chairman of each Standing Committee; and one copy to each Masonic Library and Masonic periodical and to any person who, in the judgment of the Grand Secretary, may be a proper recipient thereof. He shall distribute such other printed matter as may be directed by this Grand Chapter or the Grand High Priest.

### **BE AMENDED TO READ:**

#### **ARTICLE 2, GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES**

Section 4. Grand Secretary: General Duties.

i. Proceedings.

2) The Grand Secretary shall distribute the annual printed proceedings as follows: one copy to the High Priest ~~and one copy to the Secretary of each Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction; two copies to the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, International and two copies to each Grand Chapter with which this Grand Chapter is in fraternal correspondence; one copy to each officer of this Grand Chapter; one copy to each Past Grand High Priest; one copy to the chairman of each Standing Committee; and one copy to each Masonic Library and Masonic periodical and to any person who, in the judgment of the Grand Secretary, may be a proper recipient thereof,~~ a copy to be kept in the Grand Secretaries Office, and a copy to be sent to the George Washington Memorial online database. ~~He shall distribute such other printed matter as may be directed by this Grand Chapter or the Grand High Priest.~~ An electronic copy shall be posted on the Grand York Rite website. Printed copies may be purchased from the Grand Secretary's office for the cost of printing, shipping, and handling.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2b**

TO THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA:

**WHEREAS:** modern technology allows for information to be had at our fingertips. And

**WHEREAS:** information in printed materials is often outdated. And

**WHEREAS:** the Grand Secretaries contact information is readily available on their Grand Jurisdictions website.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

### **ARTICLE 2, GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES**

Section 4. Grand Secretary: General Duties.

i. Proceedings.

1) The Grand Secretary shall cause to be printed the Proceedings of each Annual Convocation, in which shall be included: Alphabetical lists of active and demised Chapters, a numerical list of Chapters with the location, date for stated Convocation, date of charter, a table showing elective officers of this Grand Chapter from its organization; the names and addresses of the representatives of other Grand Chapters near this Grand Chapter and of this Grand Chapter near other Grand Chapters; a list of Grand Secretaries of other Grand Jurisdictions, with their addresses; memorial pages; the report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence; such other information and statistics as are customary or useful to the Craft; a general index.

**BE AMENDED TO READ:**

### **ARTICLE 2, GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES**

Section 4. Grand Secretary: General Duties.

i. Proceedings.

1) The Grand Secretary shall cause to be printed the Proceedings of each Annual Convocation, in which shall be included: Alphabetical lists of active and demised Chapters, a numerical list of Chapters with the location, date for stated Convocation, date of charter, a table showing elective officers of this Grand Chapter from its organization; the names and addresses of the representatives of other Grand Chapters near this Grand Chapter and of this Grand Chapter near other Grand Chapters; ~~a list of Grand Secretaries of other Grand Jurisdictions, with their addresses;~~ memorial pages; the report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence; such other information and statistics as are customary or useful to the Craft; a general index.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

### **RESOLUTION NO. 3a**

TO THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA:

**WHEREAS:** while once a necessity for appointed Grand Representatives to report updates on the state of Masonry in foreign jurisdictions, the advent of technology has made the Grand Representative role effectively obsolete.  
And

**WHEREAS:** increasingly more Grand Jurisdictions are distributing, or making available via the internet, their annual proceedings in digital form. And

**WHEREAS:** many jurisdictions no longer appoint or recognize Grand Representatives. And

**WHEREAS:** the office of the Grand Secretary has not received any reports on Annual Communications of other Grand Jurisdictions from any Grand Representative.

#### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

##### **ARTICLE 5 Grand Representatives**

###### **Section 1. Grand Representatives**

The tenure of office of a Grand Representative from this Grand Chapter to another Grand Chapter shall continue until his resignation or death or his official removal by the Grand High Priest. Any Grand Representative in Oklahoma who shall fail to attend this Grand Chapter for three consecutive Annual Convocations may be removed, and the Grand High Priest shall recommend a successor in the usual manner.

#### **BE AMENDED TO READ:**

##### **ARTICLE 5 Grand Representatives**

###### ~~Section 1. Grand Representatives~~

~~The tenure of office of a Grand Representative from this Grand Chapter to another Grand Chapter shall continue until his resignation or death or his official removal by the Grand High Priest. Any Grand Representative in Oklahoma who shall fail to attend this Grand Chapter for three consecutive Annual Convocations may be removed, and the Grand High Priest shall recommend a successor in the usual manner.~~

Respectfully submitted,  
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

## **RESOLUTION NO. 3b**

TO THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA:

**WHEREAS:** while once a necessity for appointed Grand Representatives to report updates on the state of Masonry in foreign jurisdictions, the advent of technology has made the Grand Representative role effectively obsolete. And

**WHEREAS:** increasingly more Grand Jurisdictions are distributing, or making available via the internet, their annual proceedings in digital form. And

**WHEREAS:** many jurisdictions no longer appoint or recognize Grand Representatives. And

**WHEREAS:** the office of the Grand Secretary has not received any reports on Annual Communications of other Grand Jurisdictions from any Grand Representative.

### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **ARTICLE 2, GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES**

Section 4. Grand Secretary: General Duties.

i. Proceedings.

1) The Grand Secretary shall cause to be printed the Proceedings of each Annual Convocation, in which shall be included: Alphabetical lists of active and demised Chapters, a numerical list of Chapters with the location, date for stated Convocation, date of charter, a table showing elective officers of this Grand Chapter from its organization; the names and addresses of the representatives of other Grand Chapters near this Grand Chapter and of this Grand Chapter near other Grand Chapters; a list of Grand Secretaries of other Grand Jurisdictions, with their addresses; memorial pages; the report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence; such other information and statistics as are customary or useful to the Craft; a general index.

#### **BE AMENDED TO READ:**

#### **ARTICLE 2, GRAND OFFICERS DUTIES**

Section 4. Grand Secretary: General Duties.

i. Proceedings.

1) The Grand Secretary shall cause to be printed the Proceedings of each Annual Convocation, in which shall be included: Alphabetical lists of active and demised Chapters, a numerical list of Chapters with the location, date for stated Convocation, date of charter, a table showing elective officers of this Grand Chapter from its organization; ~~the names and addresses of the representatives of other Grand Chapters near this Grand Chapter and of this Grand Chapter near other Grand Chapters;~~ a list of Grand Secretaries of other Grand Jurisdictions, with their addresses; memorial pages; the report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence; such other information and statistics as are customary or useful to the Craft; a general index.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jon B. Greene [52, 104]

## JURISPRUDENCE

*To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma,*

A special meeting of the Jurisprudence Committee of this Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma was called by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest Blaine C. McKnight and convened at 2:00 PM on August 4, 2024 via Zoom concurrent with the Jurisprudence Committees of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma and the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma with the following Jurisprudence Committee members, Chairman Mathew A. Turner and Secretary William J. Cloud, John Carter, PGHP, Bradley Rickleman, PGHP, Robert Davis, PGHP, Clyde Schoolfield, Jr., PGHP, Robert Rolseth, PGHP, James R. Taylor, Jr, PGHP. Others present included Most Excellent Blaine C. McKnight. and other Grand Chapter officers Frank J. Bellardo, Right Excellent Grand King; Matthew D. McGee, Right Excellent Grand Scribe; Jon B. Greene, Right Excellent Grand Secretary; Michael S. Wright, Right Excellent Grand Captain of the host in attendance.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest asked for a special meeting to discuss any issues that might be had concerning the Grand Chapter signing a multi-year contract (for three years) with a hotel for our Grand Sessions.

The Jurisprudence Committee reviewed and discussed the questions asked by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest:

- 1) Is there any issue with the Grand Chapter entering into a multi-year contract with a hotel for our Grand Sessions – The Committee discussed and reviewed the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Chapter, specifically ARTICLE 6, which allows a multi-year (up to 3 Year) contract with a hotel for our Grand Sessions pending the approval of the Companions.

*ARTICLE 6; Section 4*

*c. The Time and Place Committee may submit to the vote of the Annual Communications a contract for the location of the annual communications binding for up to 3 years, subject to the proviso that in any given year, the Time and Place Committee may submit a revised contract to the vote of assembled.*

This issue was raised because, at our Grand Convocation, the details for a 3-year contract, although discussed, had not been finalized by the desired facility and the Time and Place Committee. Therefore, the Time and Place Committee was unable to submit a proposed 3-year contract to the Membership at large.

Authority of Grand High Priest as set forth in the General Laws:

### **Article 2, Section 1, k & l**

#### **k. Other Duties.**

The Grand High Priest shall perform such other duties as the nature of his office may require or the ceremonies and rituals of the Craft may impose, and to this end, he may exercise all the rights, privileges, and prerogatives of his office according to the customs and usages of Ancient Craft Masonry, except as they may be found to be abridged, modified, or restricted by the Constitution, General Laws and Edicts of this Grand Chapter.

#### **l. Annual Report.**

The Grand High Priest shall at each Annual Convocation present a written report to this Grand Chapter of his official acts during the recess of this Grand Chapter and actions and such other matters as he may deem necessary for the consideration of this Grand Chapter and make such recommendations as he may think proper.

As stated above, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest has the right, privilege, and authority to make decisions on behalf of the Craft, with regard to the normal course of business of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, subject to their review at Grand Sessions, when the Craft is at recess.

The decision to approve a contract impacting the facility and location of our Grand Chapter, while said decision should be made during the Grand Session, is within the authority and purview of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest when the Craft is at recess.

NOTE: The Grand Commandery of Oklahoma has specifically included in its General Laws the authority of the Grand Commander to Call a Special Meeting of the Craft via ZOOM. The Chairman recommends that a provision granting that authority to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest should be considered by the membership of this Grand Body.

Most Excellent Grand High Priest Blaine C. McKnight was introduced for comments. The Most Excellent Grand High Priest thanked the Committee and his officers for their attendance and advice on this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mathew A Turner, PGHP, Chairman, William J. Cloud, PGHP, Secretary

Report from April 24, 2025, to be given verbally

### **CREDENTIALS**

We, the Credentials Committee, thank the Grand bodies for their support in organizing this annual meeting. If you have any questions about the event or have misplaced your credentials – please contact one of the members of the Credentials Committee.

Your badge should include your banquet meal tickets, as well as entry into the luncheon on Friday if you registered for it. We want to thank John Christopher for assisting with the website form and Jon Greene, who provides a Yeoman service as our Grand Recorder. We could do little without their assistance.

The tally of voters will be given verbally.

Faternally

Brad Rickelman [14]

### **FINANCE**

The Finance Committee met via Zoom on March 2, 2025, and reviewed the statement of revenue and expenses provided by the Grand Secretary for the Grand Chapter Operating Account and found it to be in order and in agreement with the statements provided by the financial institution holding the assets of this account.

The Committee reviewed the investment reports provided by the financial institution holding the assets for the Grand Chapter General Fund, Grand Chapter Perpetual Membership Fund, and Joint York Rite Membership Development Fund and found them to be in order and in agreement with the information provided by the Grand Treasurer.

The Grand Chapter's budget is a fiscal year budget based on the calendar year, while the Grand Chapter Officer's term of office is from the fourth weekend in April to the next April. Due to the confusion this creates in creating and approving the budget, both the outgoing and incoming Grand High Priest's Travel expenses are included in this year's budget to fix the discrepancy.

The Committee commends the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer for their diligence in accounting and safeguarding the funds and investments of the Grand Chapter.

Also accompanying this report is the 2025 proposed budget for the Grand Chapter and Membership Development. We recommend their approval by the Grand Chapter.

## CHAPTER BUDGET 2025

<b>Income</b>	
4000 · ANNUAL RETURNS	
4010 · Oklahoma Per Capita	7,780.00
4020 · G. G. Chapter Per Capita	1,479.00
4030 · RARA Donation	778.00
4050 · DeMolay Donation	194.00
4000 · ANNUAL RETURNS - Other	
Total 4000 · ANNUAL RETURNS	10,231.00
4100 · Interest/Investmen Inc.	
4110 · PEM Dividend from investment	2,429.57
4120 · Interest Income	9,422.17
Total 4100 · Interest/Investmen Inc.	11,851.74
4200 · FEES	
4210 · Degree Fees	800.00
4220 · Dispensation Fee	10.00
4230 · Reinstatement Fee	10.00
4240 · Festival Meal Fees	0.00
4245 · Petition Fees Collected @ GMF	3,000.00
4200 · FEES - Other	
Total 4200 · FEES	3,820.00
4300 · RESALE	
4310 · Ritual Resale	200.00
4300 · RESALE - Other	
Total 4300 · RESALE	200.00
4600 · MISC INCOME	
4610 · MISC Income	200.00
4600 · MISC INCOME - Other	
Total 4600 · MISC INCOME	200.00
Total Income	26,302.74
<b>Expense</b>	
5000 · STAFF	
5010 · Grand Secretary's Salary	5,250.00
5020 · Payroll Taxes	450.00
5030 · Grand Treasurer's Allowance	200.00
Total 5000 · STAFF	5,900.00
5100 · ASSESSMENTS	
5110 · Per Capita - G.G. Chapter	1,225.00
5120 · RARA Donation	777.00
5130 · DeMolay Donation	300.00
5140 · General Grand Chapter Magazine	3,900.00
Total 5100 · ASSESSMENTS	6,202.00
6000 · CONFERENCE/TRAVEL	
6010-24 · M.E.G.H.P. Travel-McKnight/Belluardo	1,250.00
6010-25 · M.E.G.H.P. Travel-Belluardo	1,250.00
6015 · Grand Secretary's Travel	300.00
6020 · Grand High Priest Grand Session	275.00
6030 · Grand Sessions Host Expense	75.00
6040 · Grand Sessions-GG Chapter OV	1,140.00
6045 · Grand Sessions-Grand Master	200.00
6050 · Grand Sessions-Awards	250.00
6080 · Triennial	
6080-24 · Triennial-2024	935.25
6080-25 · Triennial-2025	918.75
8060-26 · Triennial-2026	0.00
6080 · Triennial - Other	
Total 6080 · Triennial	918.75
6110 · Festival Meal Catering	150.00
6111 · GM Festival Fee Reimburs	3,000.00
Total 6000 · CONFERENCE/TRAVEL	8,808.75

## CHAPTER BUDGET 2025 - CONTINUED

<b>7000 · OFFICE EXPENSE</b>	
<b>7100 · Rent</b>	
7130 · GM Festival Rent	100.00
7100 · Rent - Other	
<b>Total 7100 · Rent</b>	<u>100.00</u>
<b>7200 · Telecommunications</b>	
7210 · Phone and Internet	75.00
7220 · Website	
<b>Total 7200 · Telecommunications</b>	<u>138.96</u>
<b>7300 · Office Supplies</b>	
7310 · General Office Supplies	40.00
7320 · Ink	60.00
7330 · Computer Software	
7330.1 · QuickBooks	333.00
7330.2 · Microsoft	33.00
7330.3 · ZOOM	195.00
7330 · Computer Software - Other	
<b>Total 7330 · Computer Software</b>	<u>561.00</u>
7350 · MMS Subscription	514.99
7300 · Office Supplies - Other	
<b>Total 7300 · Office Supplies</b>	<u>1,175.99</u>
<b>7400 · Printing and Reproduction</b>	
7410 · Pre Print	75.00
7420 · Proceedings	15.00
7400 · Printing and Reproduction - Other	
<b>Total 7400 · Printing and Reproduction</b>	<u>90.00</u>
<b>7500 · Postage and Delivery</b>	
7510 · PO Box Rental	70.00
7520 · Stamps	33.00
7500 · Postage and Delivery - Other	
<b>Total 7500 · Postage and Delivery</b>	<u>103.00</u>
<b>7600 · Insurance</b>	
7610 · Bond Premium	
<b>Total 7600 · Insurance</b>	<u>75.67</u>
<b>7700 · Repairs</b>	
7710 · Computer Repairs	
7700 · Repairs - Other	
<b>Total 7700 · Repairs</b>	<u></u>
<b>Total 7000 · OFFICE EXPENSE</b>	<u>1,683.62</u>
<b>8000 · MISC</b>	
8010 · Rituals	300.00
8070 · Misc - Other	
8000 · MISC - Other	
<b>Total 8000 · MISC</b>	<u>300.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>22,894.37</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>3,408.37</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>3,408.37</u>

## CHAPTER BUDGET 2025 – MEMBERSHIP

<b>Income</b>	
<b>4550 · Membership Development</b>	
4551 · Membership Development Interest	707.50
4552 · Membership Development-Other	
<b>Total 4550 · Membership Development</b>	<u>707.50</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>707.50</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>9000 · MEMBERSHIP</b>	
9010 · Membership Promotion	400.00
9020 · DeMolay Sword	100.00
9030 · GW Memorial (Dig Proceedings)	
<b>Total 9000 · MEMBERSHIP</b>	<u>700.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>700.00</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>7.50</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>7.50</u>



NOTE: \*\*Any funds budgeted for GHP's Travel - (2025-2026) not disbursed during 2025 will be carried over to the 2026 budget.

Fraternally submitted,

Matthew D. McGee [83] - Chairman, Mark K. McFadden [3], Michael S. Wright [11]

### **CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK**

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma,

We, your Custodians of the Work, are pleased to make the following report to the Grand Convocation.

Over the past several years, Schools of Instruction, each under the direction of one of the Custodians or Assistant Custodians of the Work, have been held in most of our constituent Chapters. At these Schools, we have concentrated our instruction on the ritual for the opening and closing of a Chapter and the reception of visitors. In a few of the Chapters, the Companions have requested that we also provide instruction in the ritual of one or more of the Chapter degrees.

We wish to remind our constituent Chapters that they should be regularly opening their Convocations in ritualistic form as called for in Article 10, Section 16 of the General Laws of this Grand Chapter. The Custodians and Assistant Custodians of the Work are prepared to assist our Chapters in this effort in any way necessary. It is our hope that, in the future, we will be able to hold a School of Instruction in each constituent Chapter at least once every two years.

Fraternally submitted,

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7] – Chairman, Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104], James R. Taylor, Jr. [52, 104]

### **COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP**

Greetings, Companions, this past year has been a busy one. Sadly this year saw a decrease in attendance at our regional festivals. The 2025 Central Oklahoma Festival scheduled for February 2025 was canceled due to a lack of candidates. Our Northeast Oklahoma Festivals only had three candidates. This is an alarming trend. This makes our annual Grand Masters Festival even more important, my fellow Companions. It is crucial for each of us to consider ourselves a member of the membership committee. It takes effort from everyone to get out and visit our local lodges and tell our brethren why they should be York Rite Masons. Our future depends on it.

We have got to make an effort to get out and visit our area Lodges, visit with those brethren and encourage them to continue their masonic journey for further light by experiencing the York Rite. The pool of Master Masons who are not yet York Rite masons is our biggest resource for new members, considering the small number of new Master Masons being Raised in Oklahoma.

Suspensions and withdrawals are another matter of concern. The question looms as to why these members decided to leave their Chapter. We must diligently follow up with these companions and find out why they are leaving. Only then can we start the process of making any necessary adjustments needed to retain our members and hopefully make membership a better experience for all.

Sadly, we also continue to see our numbers decline due to deaths. We lost many Companions this past year. May we All keep these Companions and their families in our prayers.

We all must work together to promote the York Rite to those who have not yet experienced it. At the same time, we need to reach out to members we have lost due to suspensions and encourage them to return.

In closing, I would like to thank our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Frank J. Belluardo, Jr., for the privilege of serving as State Membership Chairman during his year, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Fraternally submitted,  
Mark K. McFadden [3] - Chairman

### TRIENNIAL

The 72nd Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International was held August 13th-15th, 2023, in Branson, Missouri at the Chateau on the Lake Resort and Convention Center.

Two of our members were elected General Grand Trustees: Most Ex. Comp. John L. Logan (three year term) and Most Ex. Comp. Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. (nine-year term). Most Ex. Comp. Michael A. Watts, Past Grand High Priest of Louisiana, was appointed Deputy General Grand High Priest for our region and Most Ex. Comp. Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. was appointed Ambassador to Oklahoma.

The 73rd Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International is scheduled to be held August 30th – September 1st, 2026, in Washington, D.C., at the Capitol Hilton Hotel.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/dcashhh-capital-hilton/>

Further details will be forthcoming when they become available.

Fraternally submitted,  
Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7], John R. Christopher [6], Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]

### YORK RITE COORDINATION

The goal for York Rite Coordination Committee is to improve the communication and interaction between the three Grand York Rite bodies and to promote new ideas and growth in our Fraternity.

During the 2024-2025 Capitular year we held 4 quarterly meetings via zoom with the three Grand York Rite bodies' elected officers and their respective appointed Grand Officers. Between the three York Rite Grand Bodies, we have worked very well together and with good participation at the meetings. It is the Committee's opinion that with the continued collaboration of the Grand York Rite lines, our working relationships between the three bodies will continue to grow, be strong and promote the York Rite throughout the state of Oklahoma.

Regards & Fraternity,  
Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. [101, 103] - Chairman, Matthew D. McGee [83], Michael S. Wright [11]Matthew D. McGee

### EDUCATION

The Committee on Education continues to encourage our Chapters to make education an integral part of their Stated Convocations and, in an effort to foster this endeavor, has in recent years produced and made available Capitular educational resources to both our Chapters and members.

The *Capitular Masonry Education Course* covers the history and symbolism of the four Chapter degrees and provides an excellent source of material for individual or group study. The *Lessons on Capitular Masonry* are thirty-five lessons which are drawn from the *Capitular Masonry Education Course*, the Ritual of the Grand Chapter, and the Bible and are specifically designed to enable presentation, participation, and discussion as a group during Chapter meetings. During 2021 and 2022, a copy of the *Capitular Masonry Education Course* and a copy of the *Lessons on Capitular Masonry* were distributed to each of our Chapters.

During 2021 and 2022, the Committee on Education published a monthly education e-newsletter, which drew heavily from the two publications mentioned above, along with additional material from Masonic monitors,

encyclopedias, and periodicals. Also included were relevant video presentations and links to even more information about that month's topic. After the release of the twenty-fourth and final edition of this monthly e-newsletter in January 2023, all of the previously released editions were assembled into a single website, with links to each of the twenty-four topics covered. This website may be found at: <https://okyorkrite.com/>

We urge our Chapters and members to utilize these plentiful resources and make Capitular education an integral part of their Masonic experience.

Fraternally submitted,

Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. [7] – Chairman, Robert G. Davis [14], Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104]

### **GRAND MASTER'S FESTIVAL**

The Grand Master's Festival was held in Norman, Oklahoma, on July 27, 2024. At the festival, 50 Companions were Exalted as Royal Arch Masons. We want to thank Norman Chapter 24 for hosting the festival and for all their hard work. The Committee extends appreciation to all the Degree teams for their hard work. They are to be commended for the excellent work exemplified at the festival.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D. McGee [83] - RAM, Michael S. Wright [11] – CM, Mark K. McFadden [3] - KT

### **REGIONAL DEGREE FESTIVALS**

The Regional Degree Festival Committee has had a successful year by helping Chapters in their local regions with hosting their respective Degree Festivals. The Northeast Oklahoma Regional Festival was held on February 8, 2025, at East Gate Masonic Center in Tulsa. They exalted three new Royal Arch Masons at this event. We would like to thank the Companions of Tulsa Chapter No.52 for hosting the festival and all their hard work and dedication to ensuring a successful event.

We would also like to thank the Chapters who conferred the Special Event Degrees of Mark Master and Past Master locally. The Committee commends all the Companions who dedicated their time and effort to help promote Capitular Masonry in Oklahoma both locally and statewide. The Regional Chapter Degree Festival Committee is always ready to assist the local Chapters in any way possible to ensure a successful & educational event for our newest Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael S. Wright [11]- Chairman

### **REPORT OF THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION**

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma officers are beginning the last year of three-year terms. Leading the Foundation is Jack Painter from Hennesey. He will serve in this capacity until 2027. The foundation board looks forward to working with Brother Painter's leadership and identifying the future needs of our Fraternity through our charities.

Masons across Oklahoma should be very proud of its charity foundation. The programs that are sponsored directly and indirectly benefit a wide variety of recognized needs across the state. Two outstanding programs are Promises Matter and Matching Funds. Promises Matter directly benefits fraternity members as well as members of the Eastern Star. Matching funds can be used to benefit programs identified by the local Lodges and applications made for those qualifying matching funds.

The Masonic Fraternity needs to identify Masons that need assistance through the various programs that the Charity Foundation sponsors. Brothers and Lodges sometimes are reluctant to report the needs of brothers and

members of the Eastern Star to the Lodge and Chapter, respectively and the appropriate action taken. These organizations need to take a more active role in identifying needy Masons, wives, widows, Members of the Eastern Star etc. Our great Fraternity was founded on helping those members of the Masonic Family

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma for allowing me to represent them on the Masonic Charity Foundation Board of Directors for the past 26 years. I continue to serve the foundation with membership on the financial and matching funds committees.

Fraternity

David A. Ray [24] - Grand Chapter Representative

### **ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE**

Royal Arch Research Assistance (R.A.R.A.) is a non-profit organization established in 1974, dedicated to advancing research for Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD). It is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt foundation incorporated in Kentucky, focusing on promoting solutions and funding innovative studies to help children affected by CAPD. R.A.R.A. serves as the national philanthropy of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International, and aims to foster understanding and provide hope to families dealing with this disorder.

The new website is much improved! Information on how to donate, but also explanations on what is being researched, who is being helped, and what CAPD is. Printable brochures are also available on the website. The Awards page lists the Donor Recognition Program for both the individual and chapters and what those award levels are. If you have any questions about R.A.R.A. I would now recommend you check out the new webpage!

Respectfully submitted,

Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104] – Chairman, William J. Cloud [101], & Donnie G. Higgenbotham [1, 28]

### **SOUTH-CENTRAL CONFERENCE**

The 67th Annual South-Central Regional York Rite Conference was held September 20th–21st, 2024, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, hosted by the Oklahoma York Rite Bodies at the Double Tree by Hilton. The Conference was well attended by Companions from the six-state region (Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.) Several Officers from the General Grand Chapter, General Grand Council, and Grand Encampment attended.

Presentations were given by the representatives of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, The General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. Leadership training was also made available through the “York Rite Leadership Training Program.”

The committee commends and thanks Most Illustrious Grand Master James R. Taylor, Jr., and all the Companions and Sir Knights who helped plan, coordinate, and support hosting this year’s conference, allowing it to be a great success.

The 68th Annual South-Central York Rite Conference September 19th-20th, 2025, at the South Shore Harbor Resort in League City, Texas.

Fraternally submitted,

Mathew A. Turner [7, 24] – Chairman

## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE

The Digital Technologies Committee has been hard at work this year, doing our best to keep the information on the website as current as possible. The Grand Secretary has put most of the forms our Secretaries need online. Also, all award forms have been posted online. These forms are in the “downloads” section on the website.

Faternally and Respectfully submitted,

Jon B. Greene [52, 104] - Chairman, Robert W. McLeod [52], John R. Christopher [6]

## NECROLOGY

Companions, Once more the hand of time has made its great sweep through Heaven and several companions have laid down the working tools of life and went on to that great final reward. Although our hearts are heavy for the loss, our Spirits rejoice for them and we find comfort in knowing that someday we will see them again. They are not gone; just gone on ahead. An old Johnny Cash song sums it up.

By the way, the land is layin'  
I think I'd be safe in sayin'  
That over the next hill, we'll be home  
It's a straight and narrow highway  
No detours and no byways  
And over the next hill, we'll be home  
From the prophets I've been hearin'  
I would say the end is nearin'  
For I see familiar landmarks all along  
By the dreams that I've been dreamin'  
There will come a great redeemin'  
And over the next hill we'll be home  
By the turn, the tide is takin'  
I would say there's no mistakin'  
That over the next hill, we'll be home  
There's a place that we are nearin'  
That so many have been fearin'  
And over the next, hill we'll be home  
When we get there, we're all hopin'  
That we'll find the gate is open  
And there'll be a refuge from the comin' storm  
For the way is been long and weary  
But at last the end is nearin'  
And over the next hill, we'll be home

Respectfully

Truman “Lavern” L. Ragain [44] - Grand Chaplain

## DEMOLAY

Serving on the DeMolay Committee for the Grand Chapter has been an honor this year. It appeared to be a good year for the DeMolays of Oklahoma, as they have continued to work hard and accomplish many things. We were sent one great candidate from DeMolay's Executive Officer for the York Rite Outstanding DeMolay of the Year Award. It is always nice to see more than one candidate however, we were all impressed with the accomplishments of the one candidate we received. Lucas Pitt from Myrtle Chapter of DeMolay was selected and

awarded the sword at their Winterfest in February. He has worked diligently in his Chapter to help it grow and show great servant leadership. We hope he and many others will join the York Rite when the time comes and become active with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenton M. Israel [7, 50, 104] – Chairman, Michael L. Branson [14], Jon B. Greene [52, 104],  
Timothy P. Israel [50, 60, 104], Bo Ross [24], & D. Ridge Smith [101]

#### **COMMITTEE ON PLACE**

Our Annual Communications are being held once again at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest. If you have any questions about our accommodation, the meeting rooms, or meals, please contact one of the members of the Time & Place; we will do our best to make it right.

We have contracted to use this facility for our 2025, 2026, and 2027 Annual Meetings. Your Grand Officers have been in constant communication with the Time & Place Committee, and we appreciate their diligence in making this the best event we can.

Looking ahead, I want all the Companions to understand that our continuing to hold our annual meeting at a hotel depends critically on our renting sufficient hotel room nights to keep the hotel interested in our event.

As a smaller event with a specific proscribed calendar date for the annual meeting, it remains a struggle each year to locate a convenient and professional hotel/convention center to take on our contract. You have noticed that the registration fee has gone up this year. This serves to mitigate some of the costs associated with the event as we have currently negotiated it.

What can you do? If you want us to continue holding our annual meeting at a hotel/convention center, stay at the hotel at least one night – and if possible two. Spend time with your Companions. Enjoy the hospitality of being in Oklahoma City, with its myriad of activities. Or remain Saturday night after the Grand Commandry and relax. Staying at the hotel not only allows us to satisfy our contract but allows us to spend time together beyond the proscribed requirements for the annual meeting.

Faternally,

Bradley S. Rickelman [14] – Chairman, Brian A. Buswell [7], Robert W. McLeod [3, 52], Ivan M. DeTevis [14, 52]  
M.:E.: Grand High Priest ex officio

#### **COMMITTEE ON APPRECIATION**

I echo the sentiments of the others that we appreciate the work that went into arranging these Grand Sessions.

We commend the time and place committee, our Grand Secretary, and all who have taken part in putting together this annual Convocation.

To those hosting the hospitality room and providing the refreshments, we certainly thank you.

To our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, whose responsibility is to plan our Grand Sessions in cooperation with the other presiding Grand Officers, we commend you on a job well done. We thank you for this Grand Session.

Faternally Submitted,

John R. Cooper, Jr. [3]

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ASSOCIATION - 2024**

James Taylor displayed the Past Grand High Priest jewels that we had commissioned. He then explained to the Past Grand High Priests present that they could turn in and trade their existing Past Grand High Priest jewel for a new one, or they could purchase one outright or do nothing. After the meeting, the jewels will be available through the office of the Grand Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER: Donnie Higginbotham, President

Prayer: John King

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Donnie Higginbotham, President

James Taylor, 1st Vice-President

Kenton Israel, 2nd Vice President

MEGHP MEMBERS PRESENT:

David A. Ray, Timothy P. Israel, John E. King, Robert R. Rolseth, Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr., Mat Turner, John Carter, John Christopher, Brad Rickelman, Robert Davis,

MINUTES

The minutes from last year appear in the Chapter Pre-Print. Jim Taylor delivered the highlights of the Financial Report, also in the Pre-Print. Motion by John King and seconded by Clyde Schoolfield to approve the reports in the pre-print.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: 2024-2026 (2-year term)

It was explained that we advance our officers, who serve two year terms, and that Charles Stuckey was not willing to again serve as our Secretary. It was further explained that Charles was okay with splitting the office of Secretary and Treasurer and that he would be willing to serve as Treasurer if elected.

A motion was made by Tim Israel, seconded by David Ray, that we separate the office of Secretary-Treasurer into two offices, that of Secretary and Treasurer. Motion prevailed.

The next item on the Agenda was our Donations. Last year, we donated \$500 to R.A.R.A., \$2,000 to Oklahoma Rainbow, \$2,000 to Oklahoma DeMolay, and \$500 to Oklahoma Jobs Daughters. In addition, we granted a stipend to Charles Stuckey for \$110.00. Discussions began, and Clyde Schoolfield read from the CODE the guidance as to the priorities of our donations as we are the benevolent arm of the Oklahoma York Rite Bodies. With that guidance, we voted to give \$2,000 to R.A.R.A., \$2,000 to CMMRF, \$1,000 to Oklahoma Rainbow, and \$1,000 to Oklahoma DeMolay. In addition, we voted to grant the stipend of \$110 to Charles Stuckey for reimbursements of funds expended for using his investment account.

Our last item was the election of our Officers. Pursuant to our tradition, the line officers advance such that the First Vice President becomes President, and the Second Vice President becomes the First Vice President. Charles Stuckey has served as Secretary-Treasurer for a number of years. This year, Charles was retained as the Treasurer (and Investment Advisor), and the Secretary would be elected. Therefore James Taylor became President; Kent Israel was advanced to First Vice President; John Christopher was elected as Second Vice-President; Tim Israel was elected as Secretary; and Charles Stuckey was retained as Treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Israel, Secretary

Those in attendance were: Clyde Schoolfield, Mathew Turner (new Member), John E. King, Donnie Higginbotham, Timothy Israel, John Carter, James R. Taylor, Jr., Robert R. Rolseth, John Christopher, David Ray, Brad Rickelman and Robert G. Davis.

**PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ASSOCIATION  
OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF OKLAHOMA  
ASSETS AND FUND EQUITY  
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2025**

**CASH:**

RCB-Pioneer, Ponca City, January 1, 2025  
Account No. 55-1192                      \$ 8,890.01

**INVESTMENTS:**

Wells Fargo, Ponca City, Account No. 4995-7445  
Cash                                      \$ 816.69

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>NAV</u>	<u>Yield</u>
ABBVIE Inc.	250	\$22,225.89	44,425.00	3.69%
ARES Capital Corp.	707	12,271.79	15,476.23	8.77%
Columbia Banking	433	10,054.00	11,695.33	5.33%
Helmerich & Payne, Inc.	590	10,070.62	18,891.80	3.12%
Iron Mountain	163	10,971.96	17,132.93	2.72%
ONEOK Inc New	510	32,253.52	51,204.00	3.94%
Stag Industrial	281	10,959.47	9,503.42	4.23%

Total Equities                                      \$115,489.31      \$168,328.71

Total Assets with Wells Fargo                                      \$169,145.40

Total Return: Capital Gain plus cash withdrawn – 27.20%

Estimated Income for 2025 - \$7,113.00

**Notes:**

1/10/2024 – Sold:      Delaware Ivy High Income                      \$7,045.10  
                                 Eaton Vance Tax Management Global      14,892.92  
                                 First Trust Specialty                                      4,408.66  
                                 I Shares Mortgage                                      3,667.56  
                                 Used Cash:    7,000.00

Bought:                      Iron Mountain Inc.              163 shares  
                                 OneOK Inc. new                      210 shares  
                                 Stag Industrial                      281 shares



**PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ASSOCIATION  
CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Cash on deposit, RCB Pioneer Account No. 55-1192	
Ponca City, OK – January 1, 2024	\$ 6,316.59

**DEPOSITS:**

Checking Account Interest	\$ 0.93
Wells Fargo	<u>7,682.49</u>

Total	\$7,683.42
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**DISBURSEMENTS:**

Oklahoma Rainbow	1,000.00
Oklahoma DeMolay	1,000.00
RARA	2,000.00
CMMRF	1,000.00
Charles L. Stuckey	<u>110.00</u>

Total Disbursements	\$5,110.00
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Cash on Deposit, RCB Pioneer	
Ponca City, OK – December 31, 2024	\$ 8,890.01

## The Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma



Minutes of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention held at Stillwater, Oklahoma  
August 17, 2024

Most Excellent President Brian A. Buswell opened the 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma at 9:00 AM with thirty members and eight candidates present.

Officers present were:

Most Excellent President	Brian A. Buswell
Excellent Vice President	Brian M. Ragain
Excellent Chaplain	George W. Ratliff
Excellent Recorder/Treasurer	James R. Taylor, Jr., PMEP
Excellent Master of Ceremonies	Blaine C. McKnight
Excellent Conductor	William J. Cloud
Excellent Herald	Matthew D. McGee
Excellent Steward	Michael S. Wright
Excellent Sentinel	Mark K. McFadden

The petitions of the following eight candidates were read. It was moved, seconded, and approved that the candidates be elected to receive the Order of High Priesthood.

Nicholas Andrew Valenta	Indian Chapter No. 1
Michael Lewis Dixon	Guthrie Chapter No. 6
Jim Rule	Guthrie Chapter No. 6
Ryan Russell Frederick	Stillwater No. 14
Ivan Marcelo De Tevis	Stillwater No. 14
Kevin Sebastian Lapham	Norman No. 24
Roland Morales	Lawton No. 44
Carroll D. McBride	Tulsa No. 52

All candidates were received, duly anointed, and acknowledged recipients of the Order of High Priesthood, making them members of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma.

The following degree team conferred the Order:

Most Excellent President	Robert G. Davis
Excellent Vice President	Bradley S. Rickelman (Pro-Tem)
Excellent Chaplain	Mathew A. Turner (Pro-Tem)
Excellent Master of Ceremonies	Robert R. Rolseth
Excellent Conductor	James R. Taylor, Jr.

The new members were presented with their bibles, jewels, certificates, and wallet cards.

The following Past Most Excellent Presidents of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma present were introduced: Robert G. Davis (2005-06), Donnie G. Higginbotham (2013-14), Robert R. Rolseth (2015-16), James R. Taylor, Jr. (2019-20), and Bradley S. Rickelman (2022-23)

The following Past Grand Masters of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of the State of Oklahoma were introduced: M.: W.: Bradley S. Rickelman, M.: W.: Michael L. Dixon, and M.: W.: Robert G. Davis.

A memorial service for the following Anointed High Priests was held: Kieth Ballard, John Chouteau, Marc Garriott, Harvey Ogden, Bedford Rowland, Jr., and Donald Wolford.

The minutes of the August 19, 2023, Annual Convention and Treasurer's report were approved as distributed with the meeting summons.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to donate \$50.00 to Frontier Lodge No. 48 A.F. & A.M., for the use of the building.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to allow the Recorder-Treasurer to pay all necessary expenses of the Council that may occur before the next Annual Convention.

The annual election of officers for the 2024-2025 year was then held.

The nominating Committee recommended that all 2023-2024 officers be advanced one station, with the exception that the Recorder-Treasurer be retained and that Justin M. McGee be elected Sentinel.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the report of the nominating Committee, with no further nominations.

M.: E.: Companion Blaine C. McKnight, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma, was introduced and afforded the public grand honors. M.: E.: Companion McKnight introduced the Grand Chapter Officers and Past Grand High Priests present.

M.: E.: Companion McKnight then installed the officers of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma.

The Officers for the year 2024-2025 are:

Most Excellent President	Brian M. Ragain
Excellent Vice President	George W. Ratliff
Excellent Chaplain	Blaine C. McKnight
Excellent Recorder-Treasurer	James R. Taylor, Jr., PMEP
Excellent Master of Ceremonies	William J. Cloud
Excellent Conductor	Matthew D. McGee
Excellent Herald	Michael S. Wright
Excellent Steward	Mark K. McFadden
Excellent Sentinel	Justin M. McGee

Most Excellent President Brian M. Ragain presented a Past Presidents jewel to outgoing President Brian A. Buswell.

It was announced that the 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention is scheduled for August 16, 2025, at Frontier Lodge No. 48, Stillwater.

Most Excellent President Ragain made closing comments and there being no further business, the Convention was closed in due form at 10:04 AM.

James R. Taylor, Jr.	Brian A. Buswell
Recorder/Treasurer	Most Excellent President

*Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma*  
*Treasurer Report - 08-17-24*

Cash on Deposit, Arvest Bank  
Checking Account Balance 07/31/23 \$1,751.23

Deposits:

Candidate Fees	\$625.00
AHP Jewel Sales	<u>0.00</u>
625.00	

Disbursements:

Oklahoma City Lodge No. 36 (Facility Use)	\$ 50.00	
Jim Taylor (Degree Supplies)	40.13	
Simpson Jewelry & Uniform, Inc. (AHP Jewels)	150.27	
Heirloom Bible Publishing (AHP Bibles)	<u>317.67</u>	
		<u>558.07</u>

Checking Account Balance 07/31/24 \$1,818.16

**Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of Oklahoma**  
**Past Most Excellent Presidents**

1891-1901	Robert W. Hill*
1901-1912	Edmond H. Doyle*
1912-1920	Isham H. G. Hulme*
1920-1948	William H. Essex*
1948-1969	Richard E. Newhouse*
1969-1975	Wilbert B. Boggs*
1975-1989	James C. Abernathy*
1989-1995	Kenneth D. Buckley*
1995-1996	James O. Rust, Jr.*
1996-1997	Paul G. Watkins*
1997-1998	Elwood M. Isaacs
1998-1999	Charles L. Stuckey
1999-2000	Rex L. Bowen*
2000-2001	Glenn H. Kinsley
2001-2002	David A. Ray
2002-2003	Newell K. Barker
2003-2004	Earl L. Berryman, Jr.*
2004-2005	Jimmie R. Dooley*
2005-2006	Robert G. Davis
2006-2007	I. Dwayne Dixon*
2007-2008	O. Ray Harrington*
2008-2009	Raymond J. Lutomski, Jr.**
2009-2010	Hollis O. Edgar*
2010-2011	Mark A. Critchfield**
2011-2012	Timothy P. Israel
2012-2013	James E. Smyrl*
2013-2014	Donnie G. Higginbotham
2014-2015	Ronald L. Carr
2015-2016	Robert R. Rolseth
2016-2017	Troy E. Shipman*
2017-2018	Kenton M. Israel
2018-2019	Daniel D. Hanttula
2019-2020	James R. Taylor, Jr.
2020-2021	Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr.
2021-2022	John F. Carter
2022-2023	Bradley S. Rickelman
2023-2024	Brian A. Buswell

\* Deceased

\*\* Inactive